

**Academic Senate Sustainability Committee  
Monthly Meeting Notes from December 5, 2016**

**Present:** Josh Goldstein, Daniel Mazmanian, Darren Ruddell, Kelly Sanders, Andre Ouellette, Paul Adler, others...

**Phone conference:** Antonio Bento, Howard Greenwald, John Silvester, Jeremy Kagan

**Guests:** Zach Manta & Sarah Berry

Meeting Agenda for December 5, 2016 (Abbreviated)

*Environmental Core (8:30-8:50)*

*Reports (8:50-9:00)*

*Sustainability Survey (9:00-9:10)*

*Sustainability Commission (9:10-9:50)*

*Announcements (9:50-9:55)*

*Action Items (9:55 – 10:00)*

*Adjourn (10:00)*

1. Zach Manta and Sarah Berry presented a summary of the current initiatives of the Environmental Core (EC). The four major campaigns at present are USC Go Solar, "Meat Reality" Food Campaign, Waste Diversion, and Native Plants. Zach discussed a Galen Center solar proposal that he developed. Students discussed meetings with Mark Ewalt, Halli Bovia, and Carol Fern (USC Director of Energy) in which they learned of barriers to solar development at USC, including the University's federated structure and USC's culture of the "bottom line." In a meeting with Carol Fern, they learned that the director has her own Galen Center solar proposal. The EC will meet with Linda Rock (Viterbi Vice Dean for Administration) and with Provost Quick and Todd Dickey in 3rd week of Spr semester, and they plan to solicit student input via a survey in Spr 2017. Students requested guidance from an SC faculty member regarding survey building and advice for their meetings with the administration. Howard Greenwald volunteered to consult with the EC with survey development. Sustainability Committee members suggested that students emphasize achieving net energy neutrality and that, rather than focus on solar, they should consider framing broader goals. Acknowledging that it is an uphill battle to mobilize students, it was suggested that EC consider staging "events," e.g., a Leonardo Decaprio event, that would engage students and evoke responses from the administration. Perhaps, the EC's solar emphasis allows the administration to give the EC a "pat on the head" for their efforts, knowing that solar technology will soon be outdated and no longer viable as a means of achieving net energy neutrality. Faculty concurred that USC's federated structure results in an absence of responders to student concerns, although perhaps the Provost's designation of sustainability as a wicked problem may keep the issues active.

2. Darren provided updates on the documents distributed for the meeting.
  - a. Josh is our point of contact for the revamping of the Department of Sustainability website.
  - b. Darren received an unsolicited listing of sustainability related courses offered through Dornsife. Dan noted that the Price School has a certificate but that some courses that are on the books are not taught. Also, most such courses in Price are taught by adjunct faculty.
3. Kelley presented a summary of an undergraduate student-initiated survey on sustainability, including survey results and demographics. Kelley has offered the survey results to the EC. Paul and Darren suggested that it be reprinted in the Daily Trojan. Antonio: What was the purpose of the survey? Kelley agreed to help a student who was interested in conducting such a survey. Josh: Kelley was simply presenting an example of a student initiated effort to gauge student sentiment on the topic. Antonio reminded the committee that we should be giving some guidance to the administration about what we should be polling on the subject, and he recommended developing other benchmarks. Paul stated that he liked the idea of taking the temperature of the student body in relation to sustainability issues.
4. Darren presented the establishment of a Sustainability Commission composed of 6-8 faculty members who are recognized for their expertise in sustainability and who, as a body, would have credibility and stature in the administration. The charge to the commission was proposed to be to develop a Sustainability 2030 vision for USC for consideration by the Senate Executive Board prior to presentation to the full Senate. Antonio stated that forming a campus-wide commission was a logical next step, and he commented that if the faculty do not push on the issue, then no one will. Dan commented that this is a good next step and expressed concern about the number of faculty participating and the representation on the commission across schools. He cited as a potential concern that, as the smallest school, if the Price School were over-represented, the administration would not perceive it as representative or credible. Discussion then centered on possible members across schools, the need to have representation from certain large schools, and it was agreed that the stature of the participants within their fields would be a critical criterion. Because the Deans' Sustainability Group has yet to begin deliberation, the preparation of a working white paper by the Commission would provide an impetus to the Deans to respond to issues defined by the commission. Paul emphasized the urgency of forming the commission and of having a draft document of approximately 5 pages by January 15, 2017. Discussion then centered on the scope of the vision the commission is to develop. There was agreement that there is a need for both a big vision with plausible ambitious goals as well as some shorter term, achievable goals. Darren proposed developing near-, mid-, and long-term goals.

Darren proposed that finalizing the composition of the Sustainability Commission should be an urgent action item along with scheduling an organizational meeting to define the scope of the commission. The meeting was scheduled for Wednesday December 20, 2016.

**Action Items:**

1. Provide input to Zach and Sarah from Environmental Core on sustainability survey. **(Howard)**
2. Offer suggestions to Zach and Sarah as they prepare to meet with Dean and Provost to discuss solar/sustainability at USC. **(Josh)**
3. Review and revise Statement of Support between Environmental Core and the Academic Senate Sustainability Committee. **(Darren)**
4. Send message regarding list of courses from the Dornsife College on available Environmental and Sustainability courses **(Darren)**
5. Publish results of Student Sustainability Survey – potential outlets include: Daily Trojan, Dornsife Communications, or University Communications **(Kelly and Darren)**
6. Give guidance to the administration regarding the types of data that would be useful for the university to collect for assessing and monitoring sustainability efforts on campus **(Antonio)**